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HYMAN M. GREENSTEIN

Attorney and Counselor at Law

HONOLULU, HAWAII

ROBERT A. FRANKLIN

TELEPHONE 54588
P. O. BOX 661

March 8, 1957

Hon. J. W. S. Corbett,
British Consul,
Alexander Young Hotel Bldg.
Bishop St., Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Sir:

The Fullard-Leo family, owners of Palmyra Atoll, City and County of Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, have asked me to write you to object most strenuously to the forthcoming bomb tests scheduled by your government to take place this year in the proximity of Christmas Island.

It is our information that the bomb tests will take place within 300 to 400 miles off Palmyra.

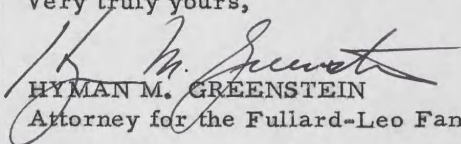
We are in the midst of conferences with four different groups of businessmen who are interested in commercial developments at Palmyra Island.

Two of these parties are in the final planning stages of developing Palmyra as a resort and sports-fishing paradise.

Palmyra is well known for its tropical beauty which includes myriads of sea birds which depend on fish as their food. It is even better known as one of the greatest fishing grounds in the Pacific both as to lagoon fish and as a base for quantities of tuna which feed on the shoals of the Line Islands which of course include Palmyra, Kingman's Reef as well as the British Islands of Washington, Fanning and Christmas.

We shall hold your government responsible for any adverse effects to the flora, fauna or any and all damage to the freehold of Palmyra, persons thereon or adverse publicity affecting the commercial development of the atoll.

Very truly yours,


HYMAN M. GREENSTEIN

Attorney for the Fullard-Leo Family

cc: John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State.
John Burns
Delegate to Congress.
Speaker of the House and
President of the Senate
Territorial Legislature.

British Consulate,
Honolulu, T.H.

Ref: 366

8 March, 1957

Dear Roper,

Christmas Island H. Bomb Tests.

I enclose a letter in original dated March 8, 1957 addressed to me by Mr. Hyman M. Greenstein, Attorney for the Fullard-Leo family, the owners of Palmyra Island, which as you know is one of the northern two islands of the Line Island group. It is American territory but is entirely owned by the Fullard-Leo family, who at present employ one caretaker to live there. Nevertheless I do know that they are hoping to develop the island for tourism and as airlines develop in this area, it may well become possible.

2. There is an airstrip on the island which is sometimes used by the U.S. Air Force but which Mr. Fullard-Leo tells me is maintained by him. He has readily agreed to its use as an emergency airstrip by our aircraft flying between Christmas Island and Honolulu and indeed he has discussed this with senior officers of Grapple Force.

3. To the best of my knowledge the Fullard-Leo family consists of Mrs. Fullard-Leo and three sons. One lives with her in Honolulu, one is in Hawaii and the third is on the mainland. The Father was Australian and the Mother South African but now they are all American. The son who lives in Honolulu, where he runs an hotel, has always been friendly with this Consulate and he assures me that they are putting forward this protest solely as an insurance; he feels that as Palmyra is only just outside the danger area it would be foolish not to do so.

4. You will note that the letter is copied to Mr. Dulles, Mr. John Burns and to the Hawaii legislature. I have taken no action beyond accepting the letter. I told Mr. Greenstein (verbally) that I would forward it on to the appropriate British authorities from whom he would no doubt hear in due course.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) J.W.S. Corbett

J.C.A. Roper,
British Embassy,
Washington, D.C.

CONFIDENTIAL



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
March 11, 1957

ZE212/118

Dear Miss Brown,

I enclose a copy of a self-explanatory letter from Mr. Corbett concerning Palmyra Island and the original letter from Mr. Greenstein, which accompanied it. We have taken copies of the latter for our files.

2. Since the letter was addressed to Mr. Corbett, you may wish to instruct him on how to reply rather than reply direct. In any event I should be grateful if you would keep me informed of developments and let me know whether you would like us to discuss the letter with the State Department.

3. Incidentally, I got the impression from something which Air Vice Marshal Culton said at the meeting today that it is intended to "re-activate" the air strip on Palmyra in connection with the tests.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Wiggin.

C. D. Wiggin

Miss G. G. Brown,
The Foreign Office,
London.

RESTRICTED

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO HONOLULU

Code R and by bag

FILES

No. 9.

D: 1.58 p.m. March 20, 1957.

March 20, 1957.

RESTRICTED

Addressed to Honolulu telegram No. 9 of March 20.
Repeated for information Saving to Washington No. 1283.

Your letter to Roper 366 of March 8, [enclosing letter from Greenstein about Palmyra].

You should reply to Mr. Greenstein in the following terms:

"As Sir A. Eden stated on June 7 last year the forthcoming nuclear tests will be so arranged as to avoid danger to persons or property. The tests will be high air bursts which will not involve heavy fall-out. All safety precautions will be taken in the light of the Government's knowledge and of experience gained from the tests of other countries. Her Majesty's Government have been careful to select a site well away from permanently inhabited islands and you will understand the necessity of finding a place which also so far as possible avoided existing regular sea and air routes.

2. If any claims are received for compensation for damage and loss said to have been incurred as a result of these tests they will be carefully examined and Her Majesty's Government's attitude will depend on the facts in each particular case".

mmmm

British Consulate,
Honolulu, T.H.

Ref: 366.

March 20, 1957

Dear Mr. Greenstein,

- 2E212/118

I have been instructed to reply to your letter of March 8 1957 in regard to Palmyra Island in the following terms:

"As Sir Anthony Eden stated on June 7 last year, the forthcoming nuclear tests will be so arranged as to avoid danger to persons or property. The tests will be high air bursts which will not involve heavy fall-out. All safety precautions will be taken in the light of the Government's knowledge and experience gained from tests of other countries. Her Majesty's Government have been careful to select a site well away from permanent inhabited islands and you will understand the necessity of finding a place which also, so far as possible, avoids existing regular sea and air routes. If any claims are received for compensation for damage or loss said to have been incurred as a result of these tests they will be carefully examined and Her Majesty's Government's attitude will depend on the facts in each particular case."

Yours sincerely,

J.W.S. Corbett

H.M. Consul

Mr. Hyman M. Greenstein,
Attorney,
400 S. Beretania Street,
Honolulu, T.H.